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مجلة لتجاوز - ملحق مجلة البشرى باللغة الفلبينية

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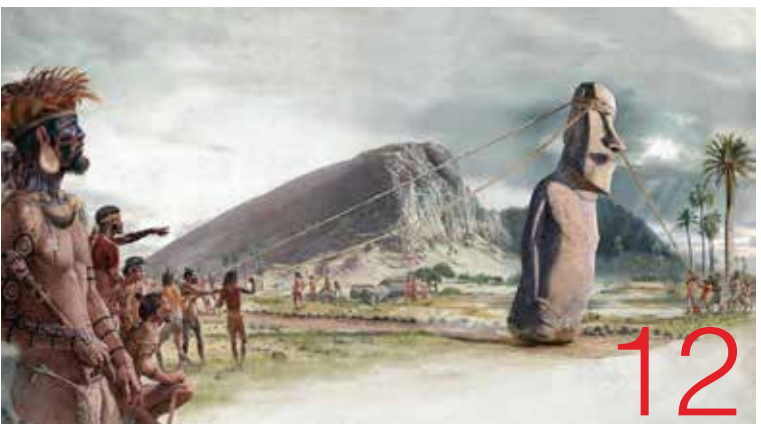
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المركز الكويتي الثقافي  
Kuwait Philippine Cultural Center  
UPANG TAYOY MAGKILALANAN ... للتعارف



Kami po ay malugod na nag-aanyaya sa inyong pagbisita sa ating center sa Farwaniyah, Kuwait

**ILAN SA MGA PROGRAMA NG KPCCenter:** Pagtuturo ng wikang Arabik • Mga Pamamasyal at Paglilibang • Mga programang Pampalakasan • Mga kompetisyong Pangkultura • Mga seminar tungkol sa mga tradisyon at kaugaliang Kuwaiti • Seminar para sa mga Muslim na magpapakasal • Mga panayam tungkol sa mga okasyong pang-Islam, mga kapistahan at okasyong pambansa • Mga programa sa pakikipagtulungan sa Philippine Embassy sa Kuwait • Pag-iimprinta ng mga aklat, pamphlets, booklets, tracts, magazines at iba pa.

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Ang Pag-usapan Po Natin! Filipino Magazine ay ang official publication ng KPCCenter. Ang Kuwait Philippine Cultural Center ay isang kalipunan, isang kongregasyon, at isang center kung saan nagtatagpo ang mga layunin para sa kaunlaran sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga Filipino sa Kuwait, ano man ang kanilang relihiyon, tribo, at kasarian. Ang layunin nito ay upang makapagtatag ng isang sentrong pangkultura at pang-edukasyon upang tangkilikin ang lahat ng

mainam na kultura at mga anyo ng edukasyon. Ito rin ay nakikipagkasundo, at lahat ng mga gawain nito ay sa pamamaraang tuwiran at katamtamang pakikitungo, na nag-aanyaya sa lahat upang sama-samang makapagtatag ng bukas na mga talakayan tungkol sa lahat ng aspeto ng pamumuhay.

Ang mga nilalaman, pananaw at mga opinyong nailathala sa magazine na ito ay di kailangang kumatawan ng

KPCCenter, kahit pa ito ay isinulat ng isang empleyado nito. Ang lahat ng pagsisikap ay ginagawa upang maiwasan ang pagkakamali sa mga impormasyon nilalaman ng mga artikulo, ngunit, walang pananagutan kahit anumang maaaring ipagpalagay sa magazine na ito o sa tagapaglathala nito, ang KPCCenter.

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# Five Inaccuracies Still Accepted as “Philippine History”

Some time ago I watched a local documentary that dramatized Ferdinand Magellan’s visit to Mactan Island in 1521. Most Filipinos are aware of the events here: Mactan’s chieftain Lapu-Lapu kills Magellan, and the rest of the natives drive the rest of the Spanish back to their boats. What irked me however was what the actor playing Lapu-Lapu said: “Wala na ang kalaban! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!” (“The enemies are no more! Long live the Philippines!”)

I cringed while watching, simply because the name “Philippines” didn’t come into existence until a few decades after Magellan’s death. Having that glaring inaccuracy in a documentary show only proves how historical knowledge isn’t really a serious concern for many Filipinos, especially those who claim to espouse “Pinoy Pride.” Here are other common misconceptions that Filipinos need to revise.

1

## “Alibata” was the national writing script before the Spaniards arrived

**The Popular Myth:** Before the Spanish conquered the Philippines, Filipinos invented “Alibata” as a way to communicate amongst each other.

**The Historical Evidence:** First of all it’s not supposed to be called “Alibata;” the term was imported from Arabic in 1921 because no scholar back then had decided on what to accurately call the writing script. The more accepted term nowadays is “Baybayin.” Also, though it indeed is a pre-Hispanic script, there is no historical evidence to show that Baybayin was used outside of Central Luzon and the Visayas before the Spanish arrived and tweaked the script themselves. Furthermore, Baybayin couldn’t have been considered a “national script” because there was no “nation” to speak of back then;

the Philippines (before it was named that way) were a collection of perhaps dozens of separate kingdoms and tribes that had little or no mutual sense of unity with each other.

If there ever was a “national script” that the natives used before the Spanish arrived, one need not look further than the Laguna Copperplate Inscription and the Butuan Ivory Seal, artifacts which predate the emergence of Baybayin by at least 600 years. They both use a writing script called “Old Kawi,” which scholars now purport to be the ancestor of Baybayin and various other pre-Hispanic writing scripts in the Philippines. The fact that it was used almost without variation by two separate kingdoms proved that it was more widespread than Baybayin even before Spain arrived.

*Baybayin, is an ancient Philippine script derived from Brahmic scripts of India and first recorded in the 16th century. It continued to be used during the Spanish colonization of the Philippines up until the late 19th century. The alphabet is well known because it was carefully documented by Catholic clergy living in the Philippines during the colonial era.*

*The Laguna Copperplate Inscription is the earliest known written document found in the Philippines, inscribed on a copper plate. It documents the existence of several early Philippine polities as early as 900 AD, most notably the Pasig River delta polity of Tondo. Scholars believe that it also indicates trade, cultural, and possibly political ties between these polities and at least one contemporaneous Asian civilization—the Medang Kingdom of the island of Java.*



## On March 16, 1521, the Philippine was discovered by Magellan

**The Popular Myth:** Thanks in part to Yoyoy Villame's catchy song, many Filipinos now assume that Ferdinand Magellan came to conquer the Philippines for Spain, and he was eventually killed by Lapu-Lapu because of that same premise.

**The Historical Evidence:** There is now evidence to show that Magellan wasn't even the first European to come here; though it's not really clear who was, natives who've had contact with Magellan's crew claimed that they saw "other men like them," hinting at Portuguese



*Magellan himself wasn't even Spanish: he was a Portuguese merchant-navigator hired by Spain*

merchants who may have arrived before 1521.

Magellan himself wasn't even Spanish: he was a Portuguese merchant-navigator hired by Spain to look for an alternative sea route to Asia, because the traditional Indian Ocean route was blocked by Portugal. As for his death in the Battle of Mactan, this was brought about only because he got involved with a petty squabble between Sugbu's king

Humabon and Mactan's chief Lapu-Lapu (who by the way was Humabon's subject). Magellan's corpse was never recovered and returned to Humabon as ordered; one could only assume what Lapu-Lapu's fate was for defying a king's order, despite the supernatural myths surrounding Lapu-Lapu's own demise.

And no, Lapu-Lapu did NOT shout "Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!"



*The battle of Mactan; where Ferdinand Magellan was eventually killed by Mactan's chief Lapu-Lapu.*

## The Philippines was a united country when it declared independence on June 12, 1898.



*The Philippines itself wasn't even united in declaring "independence" in 1898*



*The Flag of the United States of America is lowered while the Flag of the Philippines is raised during the Independence Day ceremonies on July 4, 1946*

**The Popular Myth:** After a hard-fought revolution that started with Dr. Jose Rizal's death in 1896, the Philippines united and shook off Spanish oppression to become an independent nation. That is, until the United States showed up.

**The Historical Evidence:** No other sovereign state recognized Philippine independence; what the world instead recognized was the Treaty of Paris, wherein Spain sold its ever-loyal Pacific gravy boat to the United States for \$20 million. Representatives of the fledgling "Philippine Republic" were refused participation in the

Treaty. As for the Kawit declaration itself, documents show that a certain "Colonel Johnson" was present to observe the proceedings. Some time afterwards, to give the impression that the Philippines was being "recognized" by the United States as independent, a mock naval battle was held in Manila Bay. Not knowing that this was all an act, Filipino generals wanted in on the action and began attacking Spanish fortifications, unknowingly paving the way for the United States to plant the Star-Spangled Banner on Philippine soil (just as what the script told them to do, of course).

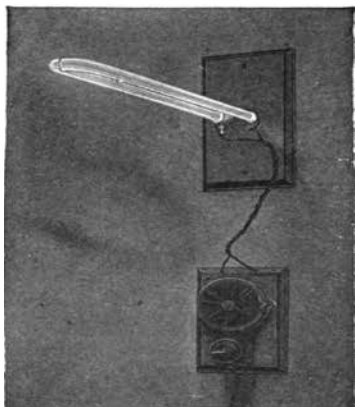
The Philippines itself wasn't even united in declaring "independence" in 1898. The Negros Republic also declared itself a sovereign state separate from the Kawit declaration, as well as the Zamboanga Republic, and no one even bothered to ask the tribes of the Cordilleras if they were to be part of the republic or not. Also, although history would eventually recognize Emilio Aguinaldo as the first Philippine president, such a claim couldn't even be decided upon by the revolutionary government itself, leading to intrigue and assassinations worthy of any Spanish imperial court.

If there was any real "Independence Day" for Filipinos, it would be July 4, 1946; a date that really was recognized the world over. Filipinos could perhaps celebrate June 12 as "National Day," but never as the date when self-determination was assured.



4

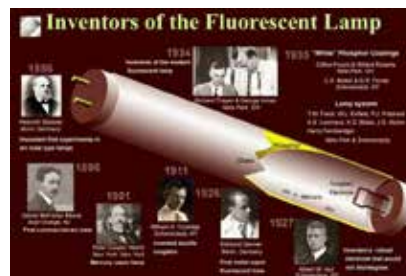
## Agapito Flores invented the fluorescent lamp



*One of the first mercury vapor lamps invented by Peter Cooper Hewitt, 1903. It was similar to a fluorescent lamp without the fluorescent coating on the tube, and produced greenish light. The round device under the lamp is the ballast.*

**The Popular Myth:** “Pinoy Pride” was at its finest when a Filipino scientist named Agapito Flores invented a lamp that we now casually leave on 24/7 despite a looming power crisis. His name is on the thing itself!

**The Historical Evidence:** Alexandre Becquerel, a French physicist, came up with the concept of lights emitted from glass tubes, and therefore can still be righteously credited for inventing something that “fluoresces,” or



*The patent for a tried and tested fluorescent lamp was registered in 1901 by Peter Hewitt in the United States. Agapito Flores was only 4 years old at that time.*

emits light. The patent for a tried and tested fluorescent lamp was registered in 1901 by Peter Hewitt in the United States. Agapito Flores would have had a really large brain for that kind of thing,

because he was only 4 years old when the US patent came into existence. To be clear, despite videos that still spread wrong information, there is no concrete evidence to prove that Agapito Flores invented anything.

Besides, doesn't “Flores” mean “flowers” in Spanish?

5

## The 1986 EDSA Revolution was “bloodless.”



*The Marcos family moments after taking his oath of office in ceremonies at Malacañang Palace on Feb. 25, 1986.*

**The Popular Myth:** Despite the threat of tanks and air bombardment, the 1986 ouster of Dictator Ferdinand Marcos was peaceful, and the intercession of the Virgin Mary made sure that no one was killed that week.

**The Historical**

**Evidence:** This whole Marcos-Aquino EDSA revolt thing is a classic example of the adage that history is written by the victors. First of all, I often hear people mention about the “twenty years of Marcos’s iron-fisted dictatorship.” Undoubtedly there were many horrible things that happened during the years of Martial Law, but let’s also take into consideration that Marcos was elected by legitimate popular vote in 1965 and again in 1969. Even after Martial Law was declared in 1972, it didn’t last all the way until 1986: Proclamation 1081 was lifted in 1981, just before Pope John Paul II visited the Philippines for the first time.

What about the assassination of Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino II? People still claim that Marcos ordered it. If so, then why is it that after two generations of Aquinos and an EDSA military rebel leader ascending into full presidential terms (for a total of 18 years, excluding the 12 total years of the Estrada and Arroyo terms), no one



*People still claim that Marcos ordered the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, but after two generations of Aquinos and an EDSA military rebel leader ascending into full presidential terms (total of 18 years, and another 12 total years of the Estrada and Arroyo terms), no one can still come up with evidence for such.*

can still come up with evidence for such?

As for the events on EDSA itself, sure, there was no one who died during the mass organization, but you can’t call any revolution “peaceful” if you have tear gas blowing in your face. Furthermore, having to say that the 1986 coup against President Marcos was “without any deaths” may have to be called into question. Part of the chronology of EDSA shows that at 11:30 pm on February 25, when the looting of Malacañang Palace begun in earnest after the Marcoses fled, “an unidentified student from Philippine Marine Institute was reported killed inside the [Administration] building.” This event perhaps would lead Gen. Fidel Ramos to eventually say “We really did not expect to achieve our objectives in such a short period and almost without bloodshed.” This could perhaps imply that, after the main antagonists had exited, the student was killed by the good guys. (Source: [getrealphilippines.com](http://getrealphilippines.com))

# Ang Mundo Kung Ating Pagmasdan



Estados Unidos - May panahon noong mga nakaraang taon na 14.5 porsiyento ng mga sambahayan sa Estados Unidos—49 na milyon katao sa kabuuan—ang “di-sigurado kung makakakuha sila, o talagang dinakakuha, ng sapat na pagkain para sa pangangailangan ng kanilang buong pamilya,” ayon sa estadistika ng Department of Agriculture.

Karagatang Pasipiko - Natuklasan ng mga siyentipikong kumuha ng sampol sa lalim na mga 11,000 metro ng Mariana Trench na napakaraming baktirya at iba pang mikrobyo ang nabubuhay roon—sa kabila ng pusikit na kadiliman, matinding presyon, at halos nagyeyelong temperatura. Ipinalagay noon na walang gaanong mabubuhay sa gayon kalalim na lugar.



United Arab Emirates - Para mapigilan ang pagdami ng kaso ng obesity, ang mga awtoridad sa Dubai ay nag-alok kamakailan sa mga residente nito ng isang gramo ng ginto, na nagkakahalaga noon ng mga \$45 (U.S.), kapalit ng bawat isang kilo na mababawas sa timbang ng mga ito. Para makuha ang ginto, ang mga residente ay kailangang magpalista at saka magbawas ng di-bababa sa dalawang kilo sa buwan ng Ramadan.

Europa - Pinepeke na ngayon ng mga sindikato ang mga biliing gaya ng kosmetik, sabong panlaba, at pati pagkain. “Kahit mumurahing ingredient, pinepeke na rin basta mapagkakakitaan,” ang sabi ng presidente ng isang food-security consultancy. Tinataya ng isang eksperto na 10 porsiyento ng pagkaing nabibili sa mauunlad na bansa ang may halo na.



Estados Unidos - Gumagamit ng teknolohiya ang ilang pulis para mabawasan ang panganib kapag may hinahabol silang sasakyan. Sinubukan nilang magkabit ng compressed-air launcher sa grill ng mga patrol car. Ang pinakabala nito ay mga GPS-trackable device na dumidikit sa sasakyang hinahabol. Sa gayon, masusundan pa rin nila ang mga suspek nang hindi kailangang humarurot.



Horn of Africa - Sa pagitan ng Abril 2005 at Disyembre 2012, ang mga pirata ay nang-hijack ng 179 na barko sa baybayin ng Horn of Africa. Dahil sa mga krimeng iyon, nakakuha na ang mga pirata nang hanggang \$413 milyon (U.S.) na pantubos, ayon sa isang pag-aaral ng World Bank.







Switzerland - Tatlong ibong alpineswift na nasapinamumugaran ng mga ito ang kinabitan ng maliliit na sensor. Dahil dito, natuklasan na ang mga ito ay lumipad nang walang-hinto sa loob ng mahigit 200 araw habang nandarayuhan patungong Aprika. Dati, ang gayong tuloy-tuloy na paglalakbay ay iniulat na nagagawa lang ng mga hayop sa dagat.

Ecuador - Noong 2007, ipinatalastas ng Ecuador ang plano nito na pondohan ang pangangalaga sa halos 10,000 kilometro kuwadrado ng di-pa-nagagalaw na Amazon rain forest sa halip na sirain ito para makahukay ng langis. Pero di-natuloy ang mga planong iyon dahil sa kawalan ng pinansiyal na suporta mula sa ibang bansa. Sa buong mundo, ang bahaging ito ng Amazon rain forest ang isa sa mga lugar na may pinakamaraming halaman at hayop.



Japan - Napakahirap madetek sa mga test kung kontaminado ang mga sampol ng dugo, ang sabi ng The Japan News. Napabalita na isang lalaking mahigit 60 anyos ang nagkaroon ng HIV dahil sa pagpapasalin ng dugo. May tinatawag na window period kung saan hindi madedetek kung may HIV ang donasyong dugo.

Israel, Jordan, at Palestine - Ang Dagat na Patay ay bumababaw sa bilis na mga isang metro kada taon. Nangangamba ang ilan na baka tuluyan na itong matuyo pagsapit ng 2050. Ang mga opisyal ay naghahanap ng solusyon. Ang isang opsyon na pinag-aaralan pa ay ang pag-aalis ng asin mula sa tubig ng Dagat na Pula para magamit ng mga tao. Pagkatapos, padadaluyin ang tubig na naalisan ng asin papuntang Dagat na Patay. Natatakot ang mga kritiko na makapinsala ang planong ito sa pambihirang ekosistema ng Dagat na Patay.



Zimbabwe - Bagaman mahigit 30 taon nang tapós ang labanan ng mga gerilyang taga- Zimbabwe sa may border nito sa Mozambique, patuloy pa ring nagiging sanhi ng pagkalumpo at kamatayan ang mga bombang nakatanim doon. "Mula noong 1980, mahigit 1,500 katao at 120,000 alagang hayop ang namatay at 2,000 katao ang nalumpo dahil sa mga bombang nakatanim sa may border ng Zimbabwe," ang ulat ng International Committee of the Red Cross.





# The Dominance of English

"I'm sorry, my English is not very good."

Since moving to Kuwait, embarrassed apologies offered from non-fluent English speakers have become a regular occurrence. English is regarded as the language to speak, with movies, songs, books and academic journals overwhelmingly dominated by it. But how does this affect society, especially for those who do not speak it?

At its peak, the British Empire colonized over one-fifth of the world. It's hardly difficult, therefore, to understand why the language became so widespread, especially after it was also absorbed by the USA, which later grew to become the subsequent superpower.

Schools across the world often include English in their curricula, with many others teaching wholly in English, with a few paltry hours per week dedicated to the local language. What are the implications, though, for those who don't have the opportunity to learn English, especially in a country where many use it regularly? "It depends on how much you want to learn," says 27-year-old Samer, adding, "I taught myself. I was not taught it at school, and I left at 14 anyway to start working - and I still learnt. So what is the excuse? I got books and watched movies in English, it is so easy to find material to learn so why not?"

Statistics from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI, 2009) revealed that only 1,087,000 of Kuwait's total population of 3,441,813, less than a third are Kuwaiti. The expatriate population is largely made up of Arabs, Asians and Westerners. For some Asian and Arab expatriates, however, accessing education can be difficult. Samer insists, nonetheless, that the ability to learn it does not depend on education alone. "If you really want to get out of the situation you are in, or to really learn, you need to do that for yourself. Plenty of people finish university and come out still completely ignorant; education depends more on the person than on the place."

For many expatriates, the combination of low salaries

and commitments to send money to relatives back home can often greatly reduce the likelihood of their ever being able to learn a language that dictates much of their career advancement as well as, oftentimes, their social standing. Nadia, a 21-year-old university student, said, "It is embarrassing if you do not speak English. It is assumed that your parents could not afford to send you to a good school if your English is weak, even though non-private schools also teach English."

It has become apparent that, in Kuwait at least, a weakness in one's grasp of English is considered more of a problem than a weakness in Arabic. Speaking poor Arabic in Kuwait is not seemingly stigmatized, but speaking poor English appears to be perceived as an immediate indicator of social status and education levels. "English is much easier







to learn than Arabic,” insisted Nadia. “Yes some expatriates especially maids and drivers, learn Arabic first and become better at that. But if, for example, a waiter working in a restaurant with Western food and an English menu does not speak English, it is ridiculous. The language depends on the situation, but it is incredibly frustrating when you are trying to communicate with someone and you cannot get anywhere. I think that is why there is judgment. It becomes more a matter of frustration. It does not make it right or okay, but I do not think that is exclusive to Kuwait. I saw plenty of people in the States getting really annoyed about Mexicans who did not speak English. Again, I am not saying it is ok, but it takes a lot of patience to not become frustrated after repeating yourself multiple times.”

Nadia's issue with non-English speakers seems to be

situation-specific. But do fears of a negative reaction if one makes mistakes in the English language increase the hesitation of non-speakers to try. In a recent interview, one interviewee embarrassedly commented, “I am so sorry my English is not good at all.” The strange thing, however, was that her English was fine. Basic yes, but completely understandable over an interview that lasted nearly half an hour. Her lack of fluency, it appears, was the root of her embarrassment despite the fact that she was already fluent in two languages.

David Graddol, an acclaimed linguist and the director of The English Company (UK) Ltd., which provides consultancy and publishing services in applied language studies, wrote in his book, *English Next*, “English is not the main reason for global language loss. The impact of English is mainly on the status of other national languages.” This certainly rings true, as fluency in English seems to be more highly regarded than fluency in Arabic, certainly in Kuwait. It still seems extremely surreal in an Arab country to receive apologies from people excusing themselves for not speaking fluent English. Monolingual native English speakers are in for an unpleasant awakening, however, with Graddol, amongst others, concluding that monolingual English speakers will face a bleak future in attempting to compete with their multilingual peers from across the world.

Speaking English can certainly make one's life easier, but the implications of being unable to appear to be severe. Work opportunities aside, the social implications appear harsh. “She does not even speak English,” a woman is heard snickering about an Asian expatriate, who happens to be fluent in Arabic. Not speaking English or Arabic is certainly problematic in Kuwait, but should not the mastery of Arabic be the priority in an Arab country? Yes of course, unless you work at an English language newspaper.

(By Lisa Conrad, *Friday Times*)



# Buhay OFW sa Dubai

**P**amilya. It's an undeniable fact na mahirap talaga ang buhay dito sa Dubai. Kikita ka nga ng medyo malaki pero matataas naman ang mga bilihan dito. Kung hindi lang dahil sa pamilyang naiwan sa Pinas, siguro walang mgititiyaga dito. Paano nga ba mabubuhay ang pamilyang sa'yo lang umaasa? Saan kukuha ng pang-tuition si Junior? Saan kukuha ng pera si Inay para pambili ng NFA? Sino ang susuporta kay mister na pitong taon ng naghihirap sa kanyang ubo? Eh, 'yung pampakasal sa girlfriend mo? Kailangan makapag-apon para naman medyo grande 'yung kasal.

Ang daming umaasa sa'yo. Noon kung hindi ka nilalapitan ng mga kapatid o pinsan mo, ngayon panay ang tawag sa'yo. Panay ang paramdam. Ang daming dahilan. Kesyo, may sakit daw ang anak. Inaatake daw ng high blood ang bayaw mo at kailangang dalhin sa hospital. Manganganak daw ang hipag mo sa susunod na buwan. Bayaran na daw ng motor na hinuhulugan ng bilas mo at walang pambayad kasi kinulang 'yung kita sa pamamasada. Sangkatutak na reklamo. Walang katapusang problema. Ngayon 'pag hindi mo naman pinagbigyan sasabihin sa 'yong ang takaw-takaw mo. Nakapunta ka lang sa Dubai nakalimot kana sa amin! Ang sarap sakalin, diba? Noong nasa Pinas ka pa, may nagawa ba ang mga taong ito sa 'yo? Pinahiram ka ba nila ng pera noong papunta ka dito? Kilala mo ba itong si pinsan mo na ngayon lang nagpakilala sa'yo? Ano ka ba, bangko?

Hay naku! Paano mo nga ba mababayaran 'yong inutang mo sa five six makatuntong ka lang ng Dubai? Buong araw buong gabi Pilipinas ang inisip mo. Tuwing sweldo takbo ka kaagad sa bangko para lang sa Saint Philippines (read: sent to Philippines). Dahil sa Pilipinas di ka man lang nakapag-apon. Kaya nga gustuhin mo mang magbakasyon pagkatapos ng dalawang taon, hindi pa rin pwede. Pagdating mo pa lang ng airport buong barangay na ang sasalubong sa 'yo. Pagdating sa bahay magpi-fiستا ka pa. Ang mahal mahal pa ng bilihan sa Pinas. Tiyak na isang lingo pa lang ubos na ang baon mo. Hay, magtiis ka na lang sa lungkot. Siguro habambuhay ka na dito. Magtiis ka na lang di sila (pamilya sa Pinas) makita sa personal.

Minsan nagdu-duda ka sa Pinas. May mga time kasi na tumatawag si Inay. 'Wag lang daw kayong mag-alala sa kanila at maayos na man daw ang buhay nila. Nakabili na daw siya ng yero para sa bubong na sinalanta ng nagdaang bagyong Frank. Eto naman kasi si Frank ang tindi ng hagupit. At si Junior ang ganda-ganda daw ng grades, palagi daw first honor. Ang kapatid ko namang babae na si Mahinhin 4th year na daw sa college at magtatapos na sa kursong Nursing. Nakakatuwang marinig ang mga balitang ganito. Kahit papaano nagamit pala sa wasto ang perang padala. Pero paano kung ang binabalita sa'yo ay lahat kasinungalingan? Paano kung ilang taon na pala si Junior sa grade one dahil sa pagiging bulakbol? Paano kung wala palang naipundar ang pera mong pinagkatiwala sa pamilya mo? Paano kung hindi na pala makapagtapos ng college si Mahinhin dahil nabuntis na ng boyfriend niya? Diba parang walang silbi din ang pangingibang bansa mo? Napakasakit isipin lalo na pag nabalitaan mong si mister ay sumakabilang bahay na. At ang perang padala mo ay pinanggastos niya sa kumare mo at ang mga anak mo ay wala man lang makakain.

**Syota.** Ito naman si Girlfriend grabe kung magselos. Diba niya alam na ang lungkot dito sa Dubai? Sabi nga ng mga beterano na dito may espiritu daw na gumagala dito. At ang espitung ito ay ang espiritu ng kalungkutan. Kaya pala may reason si Girlfriend na magalit kay boyfriend. Nasapian pala ito ng masamang espiritu at nakalimot na magtext kay Girlfriend at kung magtext man "wrong send" pa. Para pala sana kay girlfriend no. 2 'yon. Paliwanag naman ni boyfriend, inaasawa lang niya si Girlfriend no. 2 dito. Hanggang dito lang naman daw 'to sa Dubai. Pag-uwi daw niya sa Pinas siya naman daw ang pakakasalan. 'Yan naman pala. Hayaan mo na lang Girlfriend no. 1 si boyfriend mo. Nalulungkot lang siya dito. Kaya lang niya inaasawa si Girlfriend no. 2 para may mag-alaga sa kanya. May tagalaba. May tagaluto. Pero paano kung gagawin din ni Girlfriend ang ginagawa ni boyfriend? Paano kung nakikipagdate na rin si Girlfriend no. 1 sa best friend ni boyfriend? Ano ang tawag nito, pasensyahan? Sino nga ba ang dapat masisisi? Si boyfriend na nasalinan lang ng masamang espiritu o

si girlfriend na gusto ding makalimot kay boyfriend?

**Multiple partners.** Uso kaya ang tawag nito? Sabi ng asawa mo may amnesia ka na daw kasi nakalimutan mo na siya. Ang lambing-lambing mo pa daw noong bago ka pa dito. Bawat lingo ka daw tumatawag sa kanya. Pero ano nga ba ang nangyari sa'yo ngayon? Bakit ba kung tuwing tumatawag ka sa kanya palagi kang galit? Minumura mo pa siya. Sinabihan mo pa s'yang mukhang pera. Bakit mo sinabi 'yon? Totoo nga bang may amnesia ka o dahil lang yan sa bago mong asawa dito? Normal lang na makalimutan mo ang isang taong di mo palaging nakikita at nakakausap lalung-lalo na kung may kinahihiangan ka nang iba. Mapalalaki man o mapababae kung gusto mong mag-asawa dito simpleng simple lang. Kadalasan (sana hindi lahat) pag tinatanong mo si babae o si lalaki sa marital status niya sasabihin lang sa 'yong hiwalay na, single parent or di kaya patay na ang asawa. Eh, sino ba naman ang dapat maging partner ni widow diba si widower? Basta't magkaintindihan lang sila kahit walang pag-ibig at manunumpang magtanaw ng responsibilidad sa bawat isa, hala bira! Ayaw mo pa makaka-save ka ng upa sa bahay. Dalawa na kayong magbayad sa upa mong AED 500/- na single bed. O di kaya aakuhin na ni lalaki ang bayad. May purpose din diba? Pero kawawa naman ang mga asawa sa Pinas. Eh, paliwanag naman ng iba, kailangan pa ba daw uuwi sa Pinas para lang umihi? Hayan na. Gusto lang palang umihi. Kaya pala halos tatlo ang asawa sa Dubai. Ang tanong sino nga ba ang original pag tatlo ang asawa mo? Tiyak na silang tatlo ang magki-claim na original. Kung sino ang may hawak ng marriage contract (authenticated) siya 'yong may karapatang magsabi na original. Ito naman si lalaki para lang nagpapalit ng brief kung magpapalit ng asawa.

[Ed. Kung lahat ng iyan ay totoo sa buhay ng mga OFW sa Dubai, ano naman ang sa atin dito sa bansang Kuwait, ganito rin kaya ang mga hinaing ng karamihan?] (ruphestimate.i.ph)







# Ang Banal na Qur'an Tungkol sa Kadiliman at ang Dakong Itaas ng Kalawakan

**W**inika ng Allah sa Banal na Qur'an: "At kahit na Aming binuksan sa kanila ang isang tarangkahan sa langit at patuloy silang pumailanlang doon, katiyakang sila ay magsasabi: Ang aming mga mata'y tila nanggilalas, (at wala kaming nakitang anumang anghel o langit). Hindi, kami ay mga taong naingkanto." (Qur'an 15:14)

Ang pagkakatulad ay kagilagilalas. Inihaharap nito ang isang katotohanan na dating walang kaalaman ang tao hinggil dito, at ito ay natuklasan lamang sa panahon ng pagsisiyasat sa kalawakan (space exploration) noong ika-anim na dekada. Ang buong sansinukob ay nababalot ng kadiliman. Ang liwanag na nakikita sa mundo ay matatanaw mula sa layong 200

kilometro, lampas dito, ang araw ay makikita sa animo'y kulay asul na hugis bilog. Ang kadiliman ay makikita rin sa bawa't direksiyon, dahil sa kakulangan ng hamog-tubig (water vapor) at mumunting alikabok (dust particles). Ang Allah, na sadyang malayo sa anumang kakulangan, ang Siyang nagsabi sa atin ng katotohanang ito.

([thekeytoislam.com](http://thekeytoislam.com))



# Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

Few areas in the world possess a more mystical pull than this tiny speck of land, one of the most isolated places on Earth. It's hard to feel connected to Chile, over 3700km to the east, let alone the wider world. Endowed with the most logic-defying statues in the world – the strikingly familiar moai – Easter Island (Rapa Nui to its native Polynesian inhabitants) emanates a magnetic, mysterious vibe. ([lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com))

Rapa Nui's mysterious moai statues stand in silence but speak volumes about the achievements of their creators. The stone blocks, carved into head-and-torso figures, average 13 feet (4 meters) tall and 14 tons. The effort to construct these monuments and move them around the island must have been considerable—but no one knows exactly why the Rapa Nui people undertook such a task. Most scholars suspect that the moai were created to honor ancestors, chiefs, or other important personages. However, no written and little oral history exists on the island, so it's impossible to be certain.

A Polynesian society blossomed in this unlikely locale after hardy souls somehow navigated a fleet

of wooden outrigger canoes to this tiny speck in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. Here, in isolation some 2,300 miles (3,700 kilometers) west of South America and 1,100 miles (1,770 kilometers) from the nearest neighboring island, the Rapa Nui developed a distinct architectural and artistic culture. That culture reached its zenith during the tenth to 16th centuries, when the Rapa Nui carved and erected some 900 moai across the island.

It is generally thought that the Rapa Nui's demise resulted from an environmental catastrophe of their making. It's not clear when the islands were first settled; estimates range from A.D. 800 to 1200. It's also not clear how quickly the island ecosystem was wrecked—but a major factor

appears to be the cutting of millions of giant palms to clear fields or make fires. It is possible that Polynesian rats, arriving with human settlers, may have eaten enough seeds to help to decimate the trees. Either way, loss of the trees exposed the island's rich







condition—it is home to some 400 statues, which appear in all stages of completion.

Meanwhile, across the entire island, many moai are reversing the creation process and deteriorating rapidly from priceless carvings back into plain rock. The volcanic stone is subject to weathering, and intensive conservation efforts are needed to help preserve Rapa Nui's stone legacy in its present, awe-inspiring state.

([nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com))



volcanic soils to serious erosion. When Europeans arrived in 1722, they found the island mostly barren and its inhabitants few.

Today's tourists are numerous, and

most visit the Rano Raraku quarry, which yielded the stones used for almost all of the island's moai. Rapa Nui's ancient inhabitants left the quarry in a fascinating





# MAGTAWANAN TAYO



(Kung natawa ka na noon,  
tawa na ulit ngayon...)

MISTER: hon, anung ulam natin?  
MISIS: andyan sa mesa, pumili ka.  
MISTER: hon, sardinas kang andito. Anu bang pagpipilian ko?  
MISIS: pumili ka kung kakain, o hindi!



Teacher: Juan, give me a sentence.  
Juan: My teacher is beautiful, isn't she?  
Teacher: Very good! Now translate it in tagalog.  
Juan: Ang aking guro ay maganda, hindi naman di ba?



Guro: Ano ang pambansang ibon?  
Boy: Chicken?  
Guro: Hindi! Kulay brown ito!  
Boy: Fried chicken!  
Guro: Hindi! Mas maliit ito sa chicken.  
Boy: Knorr chicken cubes!  
Guro: Get out!

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JUAN: nay, alam ko na po bakit nilalagyan niyo lagi ng asin ang ibabaw ng kaldero kapag nagsasaing kayo, para di po mahilaw  
NANAY: mali, yan yung ulam natin mamaya, iniinit ko lang!







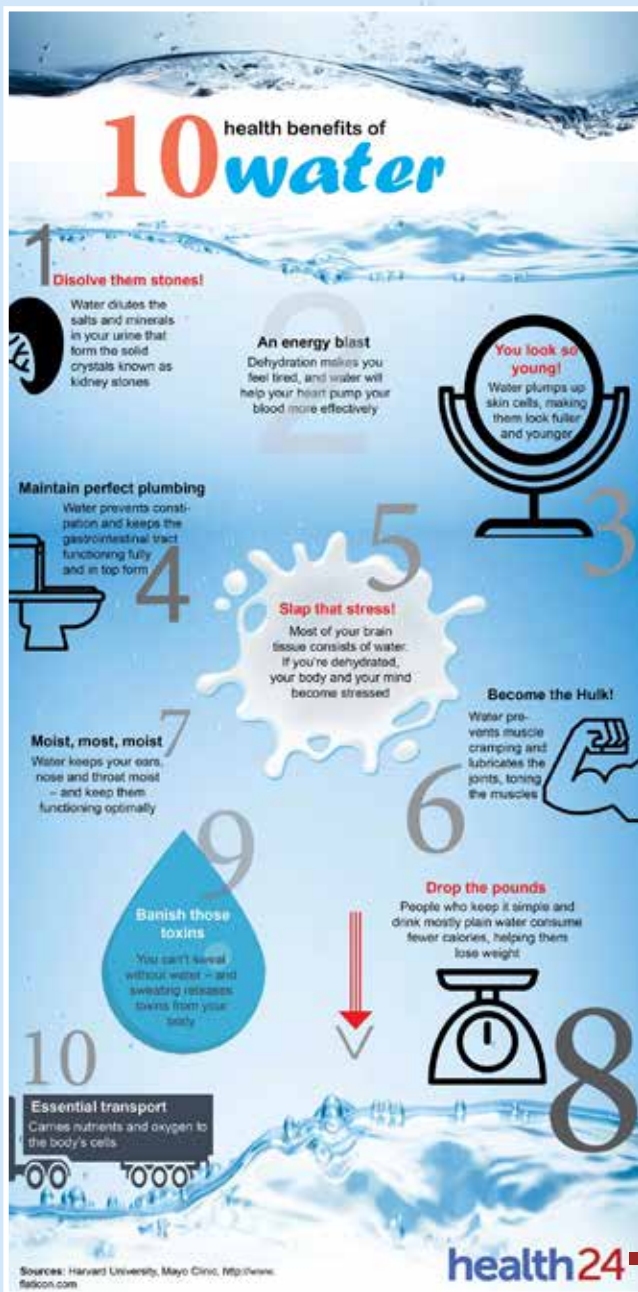
## Numbers Part 2 of 3

## Lesson 61

Pronunciation	Phrase in English	Phrase in Arabic
'Ašhrah	Ten	عَشْرَة
'Išhrun	Twenty	عِشْرُونَ
Ṭhalāṭhun	Thirty	ثَلَاثُونَ
'Arba'un	Forty	أَرْبَعُونَ
Khamsun	Fifty	خَمْسُونَ
Sittun	Sixty	سِتُونَ
Sab'un	Seventy	سَبْعُونَ
Ṭhamānun	Eighty	ثَمَانُونَ
Tis'un	Ninety	تِسْعُونَ
Mi'ah	One hundred	مِئَة

# Tubig - “Pinakamahalagang Sangkap sa Buhay”

“Ang tubig ang pinakamahalagang sangkap upang mabuhay, sapagkat ang kalakhang bahagi ng katawan ay tubig,” ulat ng pahayagang Toronto Star. “Kahit ang 20 porsiyentong pagbaba lamang sa tubig ng katawan ay nakamamatay.” Hindi lamang isinasayos ng tubig ang temperatura ng katawan kundi gayundin ay “nagdadala ng mga sustansiya at dumi patungo at mula sa mga sangkap sa pamamagitan ng mga ugat at sistema ng katawan. Nilalangin din nito ang mga kasukasuan at colon, anupat tumutulong upang maiwasan ang hindi pagkadumi.” Ang isang karaniwang adulto ay nangangailangan ng dalawa hanggang tatlong litro ng tubig araw-araw. Ang pag-inom ng kape, softdrinks, o alkohol ay maaaring aktuwal na nagpapataas sa pangangailangan para sa purong tubig dahil nakadaragdag ang mga ito sa pagkatuyo ng tubig sa katawan. Ayon sa isang dalubhasa sa pagkain, ang uhaw ay hindi dapat na magsilbing babala para uminom na ng tubig dahil sa panahon na nakadarama ka na ng pagkauhaw, malamang na ikaw ay kulang na kulang na ng tubig sa katawan. Ang pahayagan ay nagsasabi na “ang pag-inom ng isang baso bawat oras sa buong araw ay makatutugon na sa pangangailangan ng karamihan ng mga tao sa tubig.”





# Paggawa ng Itlog na Maalat

## PARAAN:

1. Paghalu-haluin ang 12 tasang luwad(uri ng putik) at 4 tasang asin. Unti-unting lagyan ng tubig hanggang maging pantay ang halo.
2. Maglagay nito (makapal) sa ilalim ng loob ng palayok.
3. Balutan nito ang bawat itlog.
4. Isalansan ang mga ito sa palayok, na may mga 2.5cm pagitan upang maiwasan ang pagkabasag.
5. Takpan muli lahat ng luwad pa na may asin at itabi nang mga 2 linggo (15 araw).
6. Pagkalipas ng ganitong panahon, sumubok ng isang itlog. Pakuluan nang hindi iinit sa 100°C. Kung matabang pa, tagalan pa ang pag-iimbak sa luwad.
7. Pag husto na ang alat, ilaga ang mga itlog nang mga 15 minuto na ang init ay hindi aabot sa 1000°C.
8. Kulayan ng pula kung nais.



## Kaldereta

### MGA SANGKAP:

- 1 kilong karne, hiniwang pansubo at binabad sa marinade nang magdamag
- 1 tasang mantika
- 1 ulo ng bawang, pinitpit

- 2 malaking sibuyas, tinadtad
- 1 latang tomato sauce
- 6 patatas, pinag-apat
- 3 pulang sili, pinag-apat
- 1 tasang gisantes
- ½ tasa olives

- 2 kutsarang asin
- Tabasco sauce, kung nais

### MARINADE:

- 1 ulong bawang pinitpit
- 1 tasang suka
- 1 kutsarang asin
- ¼ kutsarang paminta
- GRAVY: (lutuina nang bukod)
- ¼ kilong atay, giniling
- 2 kutsarang bread crumbs
- 2 kutsarang suka
- 1 tasang sabaw
- 1 kutsarang asin
- ¼ kutsarang paminta

### PARAAN NG PAGLULUTO:

1. Ibadad sa marinade na magdamag ang karne.
2. Iprito at itabi muna.
3. Igisa ang bawang, sibuyas at kamatis
4. Ihulog ang karne at lagyan ng sabaw na magpapalambot
5. Idagdag ang patatas at siling pula
6. Idagdag ang graving atay at mga palasa, gisantes at olives
7. Ihain nang mainit





# Ang Pag-anyaya sa Islam sa Ibayo ng Makkah

Ang Propeta ﷺ ay nawalan na ng pag-asa na ibalik ang mga taga-Makkah patungo sa tamang landas at ang pagsalungat ay lumulubha bawat araw. Kaya napag-isipan ng Propeta ﷺ ang ibang bayan para sa pagpapalaganap ng Islam. Nagpasya siyang pumunta sa Taif, isang bayan na apatnapung milya ang layo mula sa Makkah, na naghahanap ng matangkilik na kapaligiran. Siya ay sinamahan ng kanyang pinalayang alipin na si Zaid Bin Haritha(ra). Ngunit siya ay nabigo rin doon at nagdanas ng di-makayang mga pagpapahirap. Inanyayahan niya ang pinuno ng Taif sa Islam ngunit ipinagwalang bahala niya ang kanyang sinabi. Kaya siya ay sumuko sa kanyang pagsusumikap. Habang siya ay paalis ng bayan, pinakawalan ng buhong na mga pinuno ang kanilang mga aso para habulin siya, habang binagbabato nila siya. Ang Propeta ﷺ ay lubhang nasugatan na ang dugo ay umagos mula

sa kanyang katawan at mga paa, ngunit sinabi niya, “O Panginoon! Patawarin Mo ang mga tao dahil wala silang alam.”

**Ipinakilala Ang Islam sa mga tribung Arabya at sa mga Mamamayan**

Sa buwan ng Dhul Qa’dah, sa ika-sampung taon ng pagkapropeta, Hulyo 619, ang Propeta ﷺ ay bumalik sa Makkah upang ipagpatuloy ang kanyang mga gawain. Ang panahon ng Hajj (pagbisita) sa Makkah ay malapit na kaya nagmadali siyang ipakilala sa mga tao, parehong mga tribu at mga mamamayan, ang Islam at inanyayahan silang yakapin ito, na siya niyang gawain simula pa noong ika-apat na taon ng pagkapropeta.

(Mula sa “Ang Selyadong Nektar,”  
ni Sheikh Safi-ur-Rahman alMubarakpuri)

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## Ang Hatol ng Islam sa Riba at ang Kaparusahang Nakapataw Nito

**A**ng Riba (patubuan sa pautang) ay matinding ipinagbawal ayon sa tuwirang pagpapahayag ng Banal na Qur'an at mga Hadith ng Propeta Muhammad ﷺ, ito ay naibibilang sa malalaking kasalanan. Sa katinayan, ang Allah ay hindi nagbanta o nagbabala ng matinding labanan sa sinumang makasalanan maliban sa mga lumalamon o gumagawa ng Riba. Ang gayong hatol ay hindi lamang ipinagbawal sa relihiyong Islam bagkus sa lahat ng mga naunang kapahayagan. Ang gayong pagbabawal ay binago pagkaraang dumanas ng maraming panunuligsa laban sa mga batas ng Allah. Ang Kataas-taasang Allah ay nagsabi bilang pagpapaliwanang sa dahilan ng Kanyang pagpaparusa at pagkapoot sa mga tao mula sa lipon ng angkan ng Kasulatan: "At sa kanilang pagtanggap ng Riba bagaman sila ay ipinagbawalan [sa gawaing] ito." (Qur'an 4:161)

Yaong mga taong nakikisangkot sa gawaing Riba ay isinuong lamang ang kanilang mga sarili sa labanang ipinataw sa kanila ng Allah at ng Kanyang Sugo bilang parusa, kaya sila ay nagiging kaaway ng Allah at ng kanyang Sugo. Ang Allah ay nagsabi: "Ngunit kung ito ay hindi ninyo gagawin [ang talikdan ang Riba], magkagayon, humanda kayo sa isang [nagbabantang] digmaan laban sa Allah at sa Kanyang Sugo. Subalit kung kayo ay magsisi, [maaari ninyong] kuhaning muli ang inyong yamang [inyong ginawang puhunan]. Kaya, huwag kayong gumawa ng kamalian, at

kayo ay hindi gagawan ng kamalian." (Qur'an 2:279)

Ito ay isang digmaang nag-iiwan ng masamang bunga sa pisikal at kaisipan. At ang mga dimabilang na kalungkutan at pagkabalisa sa mga tao sa ngayon ay siyang bunga ng gayong labanan o digmaan na ipinahayag ng Allah sa mga sumuway sa Kanyang kautusan sa pamamagitan ng pakikipagsangkot sa mga gawaing Riba, kaya paano na kaya ang magiging bungang kahihinatnan nitong digmaan sa Huling Araw?

Yaong mga lumalamon ng Riba na nakikitungo rito ay isinumpa at pinagkaitan ng habag ng Allah, siya at ang sinumang nakipagtulungan sa kanya rito. Si Jabir ay nag-ulat, kanyang sinabi: "Isinumpa ng Sugo ng Allah ang kumain ng Riba, ang nagbibigay nito, ang tagasulat nito at ang dalawang saksi nito," at sinabi niya: "Silang lahat ay pawang makasalanan." (Muslim 1598)

Yaong mga lumalamon ng Riba ay babangon sa Araw ng Muling Pagkabuhay na nasa karimarimarim na anyo, tulad ng isang baliw na pasuray-suray, nanginginig dahil sa kabaliwan. Batay sa sinabi ng Kataas-taasang Allah: "Yaong mga lumalamon ng Riba ay hindi nakakatindig (sa araw ng Muling Pagkabuhay) malibang katulad ng pagtindig ng isang taong hinataw ni Satanas, na nagdulot sa kanya ng pagkabalih." (Qur'an 2:275)

(Mula sa "Ang Gabay Para sa Bagong Muslim," by Fahd Salem Omer Bahammam)



## Ang Muslim at ang Kanyang Sarili

Ang Islam ay nagnanais sa isang Muslim na maging namumukod sa lipon ng mga tao, na kagya't na natatangi o nakikilala sa kanyang kaanyuan, kasuutan, disentang pag-uugali at mabubuting gawa, upang siya ay maging isang magandang halimbawa na karapat-dapat sa dakilang mensahe na kanyang dinadala para sa sangkatauhan.

Ayon sa isang hadith na isinalaysay ng dakilang Sahaabi na si Ibn al-Hanzaliyah(ra), ang Propeta ﷺ ay nagsabi sa kanyang mga Kasamahan (ra), nang sila ay naglalakbay upang katagpuin ang ilan sa kanilang mga kapatid sa pananampalataya: “Kayo ay patutungo upang dalawin ang inyong mga kapatid, kaya't kumpunihin ninyo ang inyong mga salida at siguraduhing kayo ay nakadamit nang mainam, upang kayo ay mamukod sa lipon ng mga tao na katulad ng isang palamuti, sapagkat ang Allah ay hindi nagmamahal sa kapangitan.” (Abu Dawood, Al-Haakim sa Al-Mustadrak)

Ang Propeta ﷺ ay nagturing sa marumi at hindi maayos at burarang hitsura, at sa nanlilimahid na damit at mga kagamitan, na mga anyo ng kapangitan, na kinamumuhian at ipinagbabawal sa Islam.

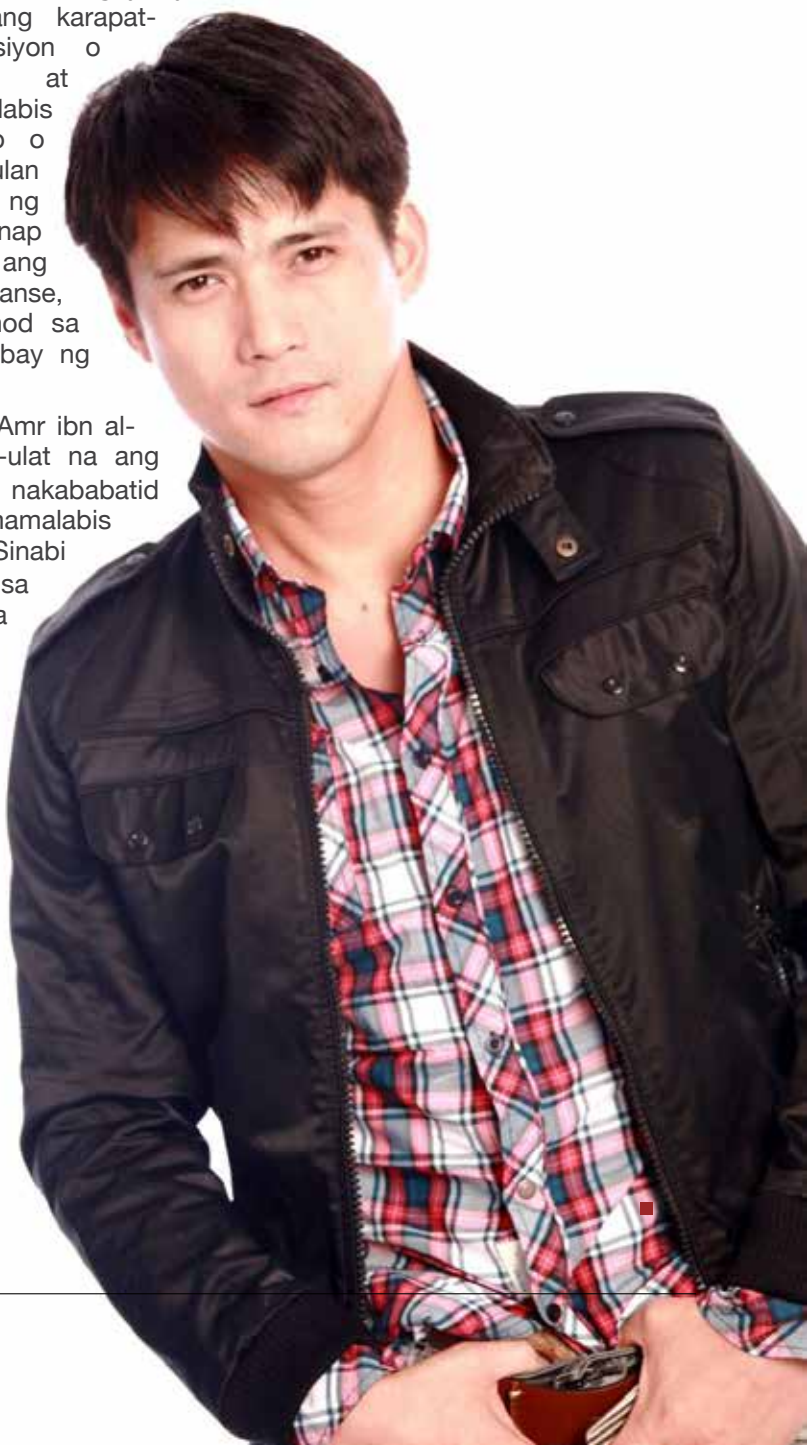
Ang isang Muslim ay hindi nagpapabaya sa kanyang sarili, kahit na gaano pa siya kaabala sa kanyang mga pang-Islamikong pananagutan, sapagkat ang panlabas na anyo ng isang tao ay hindi maaaring ihiwalay sa kanyang panloob na kalikasan. Ang pino at kaaya-ayang kaanyuan ay karapat-dapat sa isang maringal

at disentang esensiya o diwa: ito ay kung paanong marapat na maging gayon ang isang Muslim na nananawagan sa iba tungo sa Allah.

Ang isang matalinong Muslim ay ang isa na nagpupukol ng balanse sa pagitan ng kanyang katawan, isipan at kaluluwa. Ibinibigay niya sa bawat isa ang karapat-dapat na atensiyon o pagpapahalaga, at hindi nagmamalabis sa isang aspeto o bahagi ng kasahulan o kapahamakan ng iba. Sa paghahanap na masapol ang tamang balanse, siya ay sumusunod sa matalinong patnubay ng Propeta ﷺ.

Si 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'Aas (ra) ay nag-ulat na ang Propeta ﷺ ay nakababatid tungkol sa pamamalabis sa pagsamba. Sinabi ng Propeta ﷺ sa kanya: “Hindi ba narinig ko na ikaw ay nag-aayuno sa buong araw at nananatiling gising sa buong gabi sa pagdarasal?” Siya ay nagsabi, “Yaon ay totoo, O Sugo ng Allah.” Ang Propeta ﷺ ay nagsabi sa kanya: “Huwag mong gawin ang gayon. Mag-aayuno at putulin

ang iyong pag-aayuno, matulog at bumangon. Sapagkat ang iyong katawan ay may karapatan sa iyo, ang iyong mga mata ay may karapatan sa iyo, ang iyong maybahay ay may karapatan sa iyo, at ang iyong mga panauhin ay may karapatan sa iyo.” (Bukhari at Muslim) ■



(Sorce: Ang Huwarang Muslim, Muhammad Ali al-Hashimi)  
(Huwag Malungkot, 'Aaidh ibn Abdullah al-Qarnee)



# Ang Likas na Galíng sa Inhinyeriya ng Putakti

- Ang putakti ay sinasabing dalubhasa sa inhinyeriya. Bakit kaya?

**PAG-ISIPAN ITO:** Ang putakti ay gumagawa at nag-aayos ng bahay nito gamit ang isang espesyal na klase ng papel, na siya rin mismo ang gumagawa. (May ilang uri ng putakti na gumagawa ng bahay na papel. Ang mga kompartment nito ay nagsisilbing bahay ng mga itlog, na nagiging mga larva.) Nangunguha ito ng mga hibla mula sa mga halaman at tuyong kahoy sa paligid gaya ng mga troso, bakod, poste ng telepono, at materyales sa konstruksiyon. Pagkatapos, nginunguya nito ang hiblang mayaman sa cellulose para mahaluan ng kaniyang malagkit na laway na mayaman sa protina. Kapag ipinahid, ang substansiyang ito ay natutuyo at nagiging papel na magaan pero matigas at matibay. Bukod diyan, dahil sa laway, ang papel ay nakapagpapainit at nag-a-absorb ng init, sa gayo'y nananatiling tamang-tama ang temperatura ng bahay nito kapag malamig ang panahon.

Ginagamit ng putakti ang bibig niya sa paggawa ng kaniyang bahay. Ang hugis-payong na bahay ay gawa sa papel pero hindi tinatablan ng tubig. Ito ay may mga kompartment na hugis-hexagon kaya matipid ito sa espasyo



at matibay. Ang mga putakti na nakatira sa mga lugar na matubig ay nagpapahid ng mas maraming laway sa paggawa ng kanilang bahay. Bukod diyan, pumipili sila ng lugar na may silungan. Doon nila ibinibitin nang patiwarik ang kanilang bahay gamit ang isang tangkay ng halaman. Ang mga putakti ay hindi nakasisira sa kapaligiran—di-gaya ng ating proseso sa paggawa ng papel, na nagpaparumi sa hangin, tubig, at lupa!

Dahil sa mga nabanggit, pinag-aaralan ng mga arkitekto at mananaliksik ang bahay ng putakti para makapagdisenyo ng de-kalidad na mga materyales sa konstruksiyon na magaan, matibay, mas flexible, at biodegradable.

Ano sa palagay mo? Nagkataon lang ba na ang insektong ito, na sinlaki lang ng dalawang butil ng buhangin ang utak, ay nakagagawa ng papel at mahusay sa paggawa ng kanilang bahay? O may nagdisenyo ng likas na galíng nito sa chemical at mechanical engineering?

(Gumising!) ■





# Why [some] Muslims Remain Backward?

**T**he Chinese, at behind-the-scenes conferences and discussions during the past few months, kept saying they were perplexed about the Muslim world's inability to deal with the modern world. The Chinese and the Muslims, they repeated, had suffered the same humiliation and occupation by foreigners over the past two hundred years, but the Chinese and Muslim reactions to these experiences seem so completely different. "We also suffered," the Chinese said, "but now we control our destiny, and are doing everything we can to learn from these foreigners so that we can benefit from the modern world and ensure that we do not suffer this humiliation again. We Chinese 'look to the future.'"

The Muslims, on the other hand, the Chinese stated, seem to have a different approach: Instead of looking to the future, they "are mired in the past," more concerned about taking revenge against those foreigners whom they believe had humiliated and oppressed them. It was because of this focus on the past, these Chinese intellectuals and leaders stated, that Muslims were therefore unable to build societies which could participate in the modern world. "Revenge and victimhood," these Chinese argued, could permanently cause "the Muslim world" to "remain behind the West and Asia."

These Chinese, many of whom had spent considerable time in the Muslim world and had gone to the trouble of becoming fluent in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish, asked why our Muslim friends are

"obsessed" (their word) with portraying themselves as victims. Victimhood, they said, gets people nowhere; what was necessary was to remember the past but put it behind you so that you could deal with contemporary problems. The Chinese are practical: although they harbor deep resentment to what other cultures — specifically the Japanese — have done to them, they say that if they indulge in self-pity, they will never be able to improve their lot in this world.

The Muslim culture, however is acutely concerned with righting perceived wrongs... sees the role of the ruler as one who "commands good and eradicates evil" — meaning it is more important to "correct" past wrongs than to think about how to improve one's situation. First one must correct the evil, and only then may one concentrate on how to have a better life. The Chinese perspective, to quote the former Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kwan Yew, is that, despite "everything we do for our Muslims, they continue to remain at the bottom of society" — poor, backward and uneducated. (Bernard Lewis, *Notes on a Century...*, pp. 245-246).

Because the Chinese direct their energy towards the future, and rarely focus on past grievances, their approach possibly offers more hope for a better life, in which their people's standard of living increases, and China — from their point of view — takes what they regard as its rightful place on the world stage.

*(Condensed from: "Why Muslim Countries Will Always Remain Backward?" malaysia-today.net)* ■





# Night Watch

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. ‘Your son is here,’ she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient’s eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man’s limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement. The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed.

All through the night the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man’s hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused.

Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital – the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited. Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her, “Who was that man?” he asked.

The nurse was startled, “He was your father,” she answered.

“No, he wasn’t,” the Marine replied. “I never saw him before in my life.”

“Then why didn’t you say something when I took you to him?” the nurse asked.

“I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn’t here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed,” the marine replied.

“I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His son was killed in Iraq yesterday, and I was sent to inform him. What was this gentleman’s name?”

The nurse with tears in her eyes answered, “Mr. William Grey...”

*(By Roy Popkin, [sunnyskyz.com](http://sunnyskyz.com))*





## The Grand Mosque, Kuwait



# A Night At A Countryside

As the moonlight shone over the mountains  
The stars starts to flicker one by one  
Humming winds eases the roughness  
From the day's unforgiving sun.

Chilling wind caresses the darkness  
Serenading them softly and low  
Night critters goes out to mingle  
Under the moon's mesmerizing glow.

The calm river chimes in its flowing  
Flickering waves illumes the riverside  
The chilling winds keeps on pushing  
Quenching the thirst of the countryside.

As the sun lifts the shroud covering  
Of mountain tops to the grass of the plains  
Leaves and flowers bow to dew drops falling  
As the sun kisses them once again.

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